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FTA news

FOOD, TOBACCO, AGRICULTURAL AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA—CIO

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Executive Board Spurs Fight For Wage Increases

San Francisco, Calif.—A fighting program, calling for the establishment of decent wage levels in the food, tobacco and fibre industries, was adopted by FTA's International Executive Board which met here on January 7 to 12.

Taking into consideration the needs of the workers in these industries and the ability of the employers to grant these demands, the Executive Board called for a campaign to win a 25c increase in basic hourly wage rates and a 65c minimum wage in industries where the present minimum is lower. The Union will press for the adoption of these demands in all plants with which it holds bargaining rights, as present contracts expire.

(See complete wage program in first column.)

The Board raised three major objectives for the Union for the coming period:

- The fight to achieve adequate post-war purchasing power through decent wage and working conditions—for full production and full employment.
- Political action to defeat anti-labor legislation in Congress and to pass legislation for a 65c minimum wage, fair employment practices, adequate health and unemployment insurance and extension of price control.
- Completion of FTA's program of consolidation in the locals and extension of organization of the unorganized.

Support to Strikers

The CIO unions now striking for substantial wage increases in the steel, auto, electrical, meat packing and communications industries were given pledges of FTA's complete support by the Board. In messages sent to Philip Murray, President of the United Steelworkers of America; R. J. Thomas, President of the United Auto Workers; Albert Fitzgerald, Workers; Lewis J. Clark, President of the United Packinghouse Workers; and Joseph P. Selly, President of the American Communications Association; the Board declared that all FTA locals will stand ready to lend every kind of support, including sympathetic economic action, if and when the strategy committees of the CIO unions deem it necessary.

Further action of the International Executive Board included a vigorous expression of support to the American troops demonstrating against the demobilization slowdown in Guam, Manila and in Europe.

FTA Board Actions

Wage Program

The following wage program adopted by the International Executive Board is a minimum program. Where circumstances warrant, individual locals will demand more liberal adjustments:

- 25c an hour increase in basic hourly wage rates, with corresponding adjustments in existing piece or bonus rates where incentive systems are in effect.
- Minimum wage of 65c an hour.
- Equal pay for equal work, regardless of sex or race. Elimination of existing job titles and wage rate differentials based on sex or race as such.
- Full time and a half premium pay for overtime work in industries exempt from overtime premiums under Sec. 7 (b) (3) and 7 (c) of the Fair Labor Standards Act.
- Two weeks paid sick leave per year.
- Group insurance financed by the employer and administered by the Union.
- Two weeks vacation with pay, with vacations for seasonal workers on a pro-rata basis.
- Seven paid holidays annually, with double time for holidays worked.
- 10c an hour premium for late shift work.
- Two paid 15-minute rest periods daily.
- A wage reopening clause effective at least once during each contract year.

Strike Support

The FTA Board pledged full support to all CIO unions on strike for substantial wage increases, declaring that:

"Our International Executive Board feels that only by victory in this fight can a stable economy and full production with full employment be made possible. Success by the employers means inflation, unemployment and chaos at home and eventually abroad.

"It is obvious that not only are the interests of the entire working class at stake, but the best interests of the entire nation are also at stake.

"Our Union is fighting through negotiations and strikes in the food and tobacco industries to carry out CIO program. We are, therefore, informing all our locals that we are ready to lend every kind of support, including sympathetic economic action, if and when the major strategy committees of the Auto, Steel, Electrical, Meat Packing and Communications unions and other CIO unions deem it necessary."

American Tobacco Boycott Spreads Across the Nation: Three San Francisco CIO girls smoke FTA-made cigars and pipe tobacco in support of the 2,500 American Tobacco workers who are striking for a living wage on the East Coast. Left to right, they are: Ann Ovens and Violet Mahsoud, members of the American Newspaper Guild, and Mary Whitehead, member of the Federation of Architects, Chemists and Technicians. "No Luckies or Pall Malls for us!" say CIO members from coast to coast.

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FTA's Executive Board met in San Francisco January 7 to 12 to formulate the Union's postwar wage policy and to lay the groundwork for further consolidation of FTA local unions and organization of the unorganized food and tobacco workers. Above, seated left to right, are: International Vice-President Lewis J. Bentzley; newly-appointed FTA Organization Director John Tisa; Int. Secretary-Treasurer Harold J. Lane; General President Donald Henderson; IVP Owen H. Whitfield; IVP Luisa Moreno; and IVP Dixie Tiller. Standing, left to right: IVP Louis F. Jedlicka; Press and Publicity Director Bertie Selden; IVP Armando Valdes; IVP John Mack Dyson; IVP Armando Ramirez; Education Director Connie Anderson; and Research Director Joseph Califf.

THE ANSWER IS NO!

FROM WASHINGTON

The Fight Is On For FEPC

By ELIZABETH SASULY, Washington Representative

ANOTHER mark of shame was added to the Senate's history last week when the Southern poll-tax Senators began their vicious filibuster against the FEPC bill.

Action is needed immediately to stop the flow of hot air and get the bill passed in Congress. On a straight vote on the measure, there is little question that it will be passed. The problem is to get the bill to a vote.

The establishment of a Fair Employment Practices Commission affects every other wage and jobs bill pending before Congress. For without federal guarantees against discrimination on the job, the fight for full employment is meaningless.

CIO Legislative Director Nathan Cowan attacked the filibuster in the Senate in letters sent to Senate Majority Leader Barkley and Senate Minority Leader White.

Defiance of Democracy

"How much longer is the majority of the Senate going to permit this outright defiance of the principle of majority rule to continue?" Cowan asked. "How much longer must the American people wait until these men (the Southern Senators who are conducting the filibuster) are brought up short in their shameful performance on the Senate floor? We urge that the Senate insist on bringing the bill to a vote."

Cowan pointed out that those conducting the filibuster "represent less than 10% of the people in their home States," and that "by their conduct, they are showing the utmost contempt for the democratic institutions of our country and for the whole principle of majority rule."

The immediate job ahead for us is to stop the filibuster by bringing a vote for cloture (closing the debate) and preventing any deal or compromise on Senator Chavez's original bill.

Every local must act immediately along the following lines:

- **Send telegrams, letters and resolutions to your Senators demanding that they vote for FEPC and cloture. Tell them to vote for cloture as many times as may be necessary to get a vote on the bill itself.**
- **Tell your Senators to defeat any and all crippling amendments to the FEPC bill. These include, not only the amendments brought up by the filibusters, but also the crippling proposals put forward by Senators Morse, Ball and Smith. These proposals would prevent any FEPC established from operating by throwing a review of every single detail of evidence of discrimination into the courts for years-long processes of appeal.**
- **Send messages of support to Senator Dennis Chavez (Dem., N.M.), sponsor of the FEPC Bill, and insist that he stick with it until it is actually passed.**
- **Rally all trade unions, civic and religious organizations in your community to take the same actions.**

Tell It To Congress

TOUGH times are ahead as Congress reconvenes for its 1946 sessions. Reactionaries in Congress are taking the lead in pushing through anti-labor bills which can break the backs of the strikes for decent pay now sweeping the country. The important legislation which is needed for the prosperity of the people faces a hard battle.

Re-inforce those picket lines by getting your Congressman to take the proper action on the following measures:

65c-75c Minimum Wage Bills (S 1349, HR 3914)

Sets minimum wages at 65c an hour for the first year, 70c for the second year and 75c for the fifth year (as recently amended in Committee). Extends coverage of present act. The bill was reported out of Committee on January 28, and it will face a tough fight on the Senate floor.

ACTION: Wire your Senators immediately to vote for the full bill, and especially the coverage provisions. Tell them to vote against any compromise.

FEPC (S 101, HR 2232)

Establishes a permanent Fair Employment Practices Commission which would prevent job discrimination. Present filibuster is preventing the Senate from taking a vote on the bill.

ACTION: Wire Senators immediately to vote for cloture and to vote for the bill without any amendments. (See "The Fight Is On For FEPC," 'above.)

Anti-Strike Bill (S 1661, HR 4908)

Truman's bill to prohibit strikes by enforced "cooling off" and "fact-finding" boards. Reported out by House Labor Committee without sufficient testimony on the bill.

ACTION: Write and wire Congressmen at once to send bill back to House Committee for further hearings. Tell them to vote against the bill.

FTA's Postwar Wage Program:

FOOD AND TOBACCO WAGES MUST GO UP

AT present wage scales, veterans returning to jobs in the food, tobacco and fiber processing industries will find that they and their families are worse off than when they were in the Armed Services.

An enlisted man serving overseas who had a wife and two children drew an income of $2,481.27 a year, on the average, in pay, family allotments and living expenses. This amounts to $47.71 per week, which is approximately the same as the weekly pay of the average manufacturing worker in April, 1945, but substantially more than the earnings of workers in the food and tobacco industries, which were $39.15 and $31.28, respectively.

With the earnings of food and tobacco workers likely to drop to $30.47 and $23.20 per week, respectively, by the middle of 1946 unless wage rates are raised, according to the OWMR report, it is evident that at present wage levels a great many veterans will find that working at a full time job in these industries means a substantial reduction in the living standards of their families. The same holds true for workers formerly employed in high-wage war industries, many of whom must be asborbed by the food and tobacco industries.

Minimum Program

In line with the demand of the CIO and organized labor generally for substantial pay increases, FTA-CIO has adopted a ten-point wage program for the immediate period, the principal feature of which call for: (a) 25c an hour increase in basic wage rates; and (b) a 65c minimum wage. The Union will press for the adoption of these demands in all plants of the food, tobacco and fiber processing industries with which it holds bargaining rights, as present contracts expire.

In adopting this program, the Union has taken into consideration the needs of the workers—in the light of wartime and expected postwar trends in earnings, the rise in the cost of living and the cost of maintaining a minimum standard of living—the financial ability of employers to grant these demands, and the effect of the program on the nation and the national economy as a whole. (See wage program on Page 1.)

This is a minimum program. Individual locals are free to demand more liberal adjustments where circumstances warrant. Some have already obtained benefits equal to or more liberal than are proposed in this program.

The 25c per hour general increase sought by the Union represents a wage increase of 31% for the food industries as a group, on the basis of the average straight time hourly earnings prevailing in April, 1945. For the tobacco industries, it represents a 36% increase. For individual industries the amount of increase involved is: canning, 33%; cigars, 37%; flour, 31%; cereal preparations, 28%; cottonseed oil, 50%.

It is the Union's conviction, based on factual evidence that these wage adjustments can be granted by employers without requiring price increases. In any event, no price increase can be justified unless the employer can demonstrate positively that he cannot meet the higher wages at existing price levels. In such cases, the burden of proof will be on the employer.

Lowest-Paid Industries

The food, tobacco and fiber processing industries have historically been among the lowest-paying industries in the country. The earnings of their employees have never been sufficient to provide them and their families with anything approaching an adequate American standard of living.

During the war, moreover, the wage status of food, tobacco and fiber processing workers worsened rather than improved. Even at the wartime peak, most of them did not earn a decent living despite the fact that they were able to supplement their earnings by working 15 to 20 percent more hours per week.

An idea of how far short of providing a real living wage the earnings of food, tobacco and fiber processing workers really are, is obtained from studies made by the Heller Committee for Research in Social Science of the University of Calif. These studies show that the cost of maintaining a standard of health and decency for a wage earner's family of four was $3,075.72 a year in March, 1945. Adjusted to peacetime requirements, this budget requires an income of $3,014.29, or $57.97 per week, without allowing for any savings.

In September, 1945, the average cannery worker earned $31.89 according to BLS, or $26.08 less than the Heller Committee budget requires. Even with a 25c an hour wage increase, his earnings would still fall $16.18 a week short of the budget requirements. Tobacco workers earned $33.01 a week on the average, cottonseed oil workers $28.66. These figures are understated also, in that they gloss over the plight of the tens of thousands of workers who earn less than the average.

Local 207 Brings Food To Strikers

By Alice Horan, Reporter

Brooklyn, N. Y.—Local 207 Executive Board members appeared on Local 56's picket line at the Trenton American Tobacco plant recently, loaded down with $50 worth of food for the strikers. The cases of food, including gingerbread, cranberries and dates, were produced and packed by the Local 207 members who are employed at the Hills Bros. Co. here. They knew full well what a hit such contributions would make, since it wasn't very long ago that they, too, were out on strike.

The Hills Bros. management recently came across with a new plant cafeteria for the employees.

Pres. Viola Castagnola, Vice-Pres. Helen Andricola, Secy.-Treas. Rose DeCrescenzo and Rec. Secy. Pauline Comorda received special invitations recently to hear UAW Secy.-Treas. George Addes speak on the General Motors strike. They had special seats on the stage along with other New York union officials.

Tisa and Califf Are Appointed to Staff

San Francisco, Calif.—The appointments of John Tisa as FTA Organization Director and of Joseph Califf as Research Director were formally approved by the International Executive Board which met here on Jan. 7.

Tisa, recently discharged from the Army, was formerly an International Representative. In past years he played a leading part in organizing the Campbell Soup plant in Camden, N. J., and other food and tobacco plants.

Califf has been Research Director for the Union since last October and formerly worked in the Research Department of the United Auto Workers, CIO, and the Wage-Hour Division of the U. S. Department of Labor.

Expect Early Decision On California Canneries

By Dolph Winebrenner, West Coast Cannery Drive Publicity Director

San Francisco, Calif.—Ruling in favor of FTA, Regional Director Joseph E. Watson of the National Labor Relations Board here has recommended that all AFL Teamster objections to the recent industry-wide elections in 70 Northern California canneries be dismissed.

His report, sent recently to the Board in Washington, D. C., is expected to result in quick certification of FTA as bargaining agent in canneries employing more than 45,000 workers.

At the same time FTA cannery leaders drew up demands for the 1946 contract at the first formal meeting of the FTA Cannery Council representing 10 new cannery locals in the San Joaquin, Sacramento and Santa Clara valleys.

Fred Less, former president of the AFL State Cannery Council, was elected president of the FTA Council.

FTA demands will follow in general the national wage program adopted here last month by the International FTA Executive Board. It calls for a 25c hourly and piece rate increase, equal pay regardless of sex or race, time and a half for overtime, seven paid holidays, double time for holidays worked, 10c premium for night work and two 15-minute rest periods daily.

Immediate certification of FTA as bargaining agent was requested in a letter from Regional Director Luisa Moreno to NLRB Chairman Paul Herzog.

Teamster Violence

Meanwhile, International President Donald Henderson charged AFL Teamsters with "trying to nullify the election with a campaign of violence and intimidation."

FTA officials pointed out that:

Teamsters attempted to nullify the election by throwing goon lines around various plants and forcibly refused to let some workers enter the plants.

Dues were forced from unwilling cannery workers who were confronted with the alternative of losing their jobs.

Several CIO workers have been beaten by Teamsters.

Two women CIO members had rocks thrown through their windows at : a.m.

For days Teamsters' goons kept a 61-year-old man from working and recently barred a veteran from the job.

Headed by their attorney, Teamster officials raided the FTA Sunnyvale local and illegally and forcibly took CIO equipment and funds.

HELP ARK. COTTON OIL WORKERS WIN RIGHT TO LIVE AS FREE MEN

By Frank Hargrove, Regional Director

North Little Rock, Ark.—Local 98 members on strike here at the Southern Cotton Oil Mill are appealing to organized labor to help them, not only in their fight for a decent wage, but also to defend their right to organize, their right to live as free men.

Following the fatal picketline stabbing of George Campbell on December 26, his murderer Walter Campbell, strikebreaker, was allowed to go free while five members of the Local were indicted for alleged violation of the "Christian-American" sponsored Arkansas Anti-Violence Law. The men indicted by the Pulaski County Grand Jury are: Lewis Jones, Chairman of the plant group of Local 98, whose bond was $2500; Roy Cole, Asst. Chairman; Jessie Bean; Robert Brooks and Bishop Jackson, whose bonds were $1000 each.

On December 17, the workers at the Southern Cotton Oil plant went on strike after repeated efforts by the Local to enter into a wage and hour agreement had failed. Local 98, the second CIO local organized in this city, is composed of workers in oil mills, cotton compresses, feed mills, etc. In this industry, the hours are long and the pay low. The Union had been trying to negotiate overtime provisions over a period of six months before the strike.

In addition to the indictments of the Union members, all picketing by the Union was prohibited by the Pulaski Chancery Court.

The Arkansas Anti-Violence Law under which these Union men were indicted was passed in 1943 after a heavy pressure compaign headed by Senator "Pappy" O'Daniels of Texas, Vance Muse and Val Sherman, leaders of the Christian-American Association. So enraged were the members of organized labor and others that the Governor would not sign the bill; it became a law without his signature.

This law was aimed directly at organized labor, for to do violence has always been unlawful in Arkansas, even without this bill. The law carries heavy penalties of from one to two years in the penitentiary or heavy fines or both.

It is evident that the present attack against the Local 98 strikers is part of a nation-wide effort to destroy labor. The Southern Cotton Oil Co. is part of a chain of nearly 100 cotton oil mills throughout the South. So this is not merely a local fight, but a fight to break down the weaker areas first in order to undermine the whole.

Senator O'Daniels and the Christian-American Association get their money from big businessmen to carry on this campaign to bust the trade unions throughout the nation. If they win in the South they will be strengthened for further victories elsewhere.

Almost all the members of Local 98 are Negroes. Usually when a Negro is indicted in Arkansas he is convicted. The leaders of this anti-labor campaign in the South fight with two objects in mind: one, to kill the CIO through race prejudice; the other to spur on a nationwide campaign against labor.

A committee for the defense of the indicted Union members has been set up, headed by CIO Sub-Regional Director Wm. R. Henderson.

We urge all unions and progressive organizations and individuals to write Governor Ben Laney, State Capitol Bldg., Little Rock, Ark., protesting the arrest of the pickets as an infringement of the constitutional rights of all Americans.

Funds to help cover court costs should be made out to Mrs. Georgia Morris, Business Agent of Local 98, 1200 E. Second St., North Little Rock, Ark.

Boss' Intimidation Doesn't Work— Expect Victory In Phillips Election

Cambridge, Md.—Last-minute attempts of Colonel Phillips, boss of the Phillips cannery here, to intimidate his employees failed to crush their good CIO spirits. Enthusiasm is high as the workers look forward to the NLRB election on January 30, when they will vote for the union of their choice.

Besides FTA, the Dorco company-union and the AFL are also on the ballot. It is an open secret that the company-union's lawyer is also the lawyer for the Gibbs Packing Company in Baltimore—and that Mr. Gibbs is the brother-in-law of Colonel Phillips.

Not only does the Colonel control the company-union, but he also has a lot of "influence" with the Mayor of Cambridge. Just a week before the election, Mayor Dorsey Davis invoked a city ordinance against FTA, forbidding the distribution of leaflets to Phillips' workers. The Mayor, incidentally, is foreman of the carpenters in the cannery.

Workers Want FTA

But the workers know the score. Oliver Molock, who is the highest paid Negro worker in the plant, is also the most active member of the Union. He works from 10 to 12 hours per day, and he won a Victory Bond for bringing in the most members to FTA.

Young, attractive Eunice Bowens works on the assembly line in Plant C for 55c an hour. In the past two years, she has had two accidents on the job. She and Oliver guarantee at least 80% of the Plant C vote for FTA.

For Emerson Jackson, an old worker at Phillips and an active member of his church, the CIO means salvation from a hopeless 57½c an hour. "No matter how hard my wife and I work," he says, "we can't make a decent wage. And that ain't right."

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Citrus Takes the Floor: **A program for continued organization of California's citrus packing workers was approved by the International Executive Board on January 16, when International Representative Dave Forbes and International Organizer Ralph Hargrove presented the program of the Citrus Workers Organizing Committee. At the meeting, above, left to right, are: International Vice-President Armando Valdes, Forbes (speaking), Organization Director John Tisa, International Secretary-Treasurer Harold J. Lane and General President Donald Henderson.**

Spike Company Move to Split Tobacco Strike

Philadelphia, Pa.—The latest attempt of the American Tobacco Company to split apart the three striking FTA locals was turned down flat at a joint strike committee meeting here on Jan. 21. Declining an invitation of the U. S. Conciliation Service for a conference between the Company and the Philadelphia strikers, the committee unanimously voted to hold out until the Company will meet with the local committees of the Trenton, Charleston and Philadelphia strikers together.

The strike, which is now in it fourth month, was called when the American Tobacco Company refused to negotiate the Union' demands for a 65c hourly minimum, a 25c per hour wage increase and a no-discrimination clause in its contracts.

Replying to a letter from Regional Director H. R. Colwell of the U. S. Conciliation Service requesting a meeting of Company officials with representatives of the Philadelphia strikers, Jessica Rhine, FTA Regional Representative, declared:

"It is unnecessary for us to tell you that we are always prepared to meet with the Company for negotiations in good faith to settle the strike. However, after careful consideration, we have come to the conclusion that the Company's insistence upon meeting only with the Philadelphia local is a clear indication of bad faith and is intended not for the sake of reaching agreement, but with the hope of dividing the strikers.

"We must therefore respectfully decline your invitation to meet with the Company for the Philadelphia plant alone. We are ready to meet at any time for negotiations relating to all three plants which are on strike. We also believe that you should use your efforts to arrange such a meeting, and not encourage the Company in its attempts to meet with only one of the plants."

"Don't Buy Luckies!" striking American Tobacco workers told Philadelphians recently. The horse-and-buggy display created quite a stir as it roamed through the midtown traffic during noon-hour while a group of strikers distributed handbills telling about the three-month-old strike. The American Tobacco Company, feeling the effectiveness of the boycott, was forced to reduce its working force in its Lucky Strike plant in Durham, N. C., in December, at a time when other cigarette plants were working at capacity.

"Lucky Strike" Boycott Is Packing a Wallop

Charleston, S. C.—"The fact that the Lucky Strike plant of the American Tobacco Company in Durham, N. C., reduced its working force by a wholesale method early in December is being interpreted by the striking cigar workers as evidence of the effectiveness of their three-month-old boycott against American Tobacco products," Reuel Stanfield, President of Local 15 announced here.

"When the American Tobacco Co. laid off 500 workers in Durham the 3rd week in December, they gave as their reason 'the curtailing of wartime operations to peacetime schedules,'" he revealed. However, Stanfield charged that the Company's statement doesn't square with the facts.

Stanfield cited the fact that the R. J. Reynolds Company, makers of Camels cigarettes, Lucky Strikes' greatest competitor, informed union officials in Winston-Salem that they were producing only 90% of what they could sell, though operating at full blast.

—FLASH—

Protest Police Strike-Breaking

Charleston, S. C., Jan. 25—American Tobacco strikers today called upon all friends of labor to protest police strike-breaking activities in Charleston, South Carolina.

In the presence of the manager of the plant, yesterday, a police sergeant arrested Reuel Stanfield, President of the striking FTA local, and molested the Negro workers on the picket line.

Send wires and letters of protest to:

Mayor Edward Wehman and Chief of Police Chris Ortman in Charleston, S. C., and

American Tobacco Company, 111 Fifth Ave., New York City.

Charleston Strike Leaders are heartened by the strong support they are getting from FTA and other CIO local unions in the South. Seated (left to right) are: Arabelle Lane; Celestine Bunch, Vice-President of Local 15; Reuel Stanfield, President; Flossie Holmes and S. B. Graham, Vice-President. Standing: May Hiott, John Cummings and Anna Lee Bonneau. Local 15 is circulating petitions among the citizens of Charleston and the rest of the country, calling upon the Company to "sit down and bargain in good faith."

Rallying the People of West Philadelphia behind the CIO's fight for decent wages, 13 local CIO unions, representing 35,000 workers in the community, held a joint public meeting on Jan. 17. On the speakers' platform (above) left to right are: Walter Bliel, President of Steelworkers Local 2443; Jessica Rhine, FTA Regional Representative in charge of the American Tobacco strike in Philadelphia; Harold Kotzker, recently discharged veteran; Francis White (speaking), Field Organizer of the United Electrical Workers; and Frank Fernback, Assistant Research Director of the United Steelworkers of America. The meeting was also addressed by a representative of the local businessmen's association, and the basis was laid for wide community support to West Philadelphia strikers.

The Bosses Squirmed in their fine offices on January 4 when a group of American Tobacco strikers from Trenton, Philadelphia and Charleston came to New York to picket right under the bosses' noses. The picket line was reinforced during noon-hour by workers in neighboring plants and offices—CIO members of Local 65, Wholesale and Warehouse Workers Union, United Electrical Workers and State, County and Municipal Workers. All day long, New Yorkers passing the American Tobacco Company's offices at 111 Fifth Avenue heard the strikers singing "Solidarity Forever," "You Can't Scare Me, I'm Sticking to the Union," and chanting "Don't Buy Lucky Strike—Lucky Strike Means Fink Tobacco!"

Notes from the Locals

New Officers

179 Toledo, Ohio—The following officers were elected for 1946 at Local 179's recent membership meeting: E. Ringger, Pres.; Clyde DeGood, Vice-Pres.; C. Roberts, Fin. Secy.; C. Schrieber, Rec. Secy.; R. A. Brown, Alternate Secy.; Clyde DeGood, and V. Flory, Shop Committee; E. Marchall, J. Bloom and R. A. Brown, Safety Committee; R. A. Brown, Trustee; W. James, Guard; Clyde DeGood and C. Schrieber, delegates to the Toledo Industrial Union Council.

A hearty welcome home to Ray Dryer, Joe Swytick, R. A. Brown, W. Grigg, John Roth, P. Kenemen, L. Anthony, W. Christon and C. Taylor who have recently returned from the Armed Forces.

By Clyde DeGood, Vice-Pres.

New Officers

18 DeKalb, Ill.—At a recent membership meeting, Local 18 elected its officers for 1946. They are: W. H. Wheeler, Pres.; William Vogler, Vice-Pres.; Curtis Dowden, Fin. Secy.; Caroline Scott, Rec. Secy.; Enoch Kittle, Chief Steward; Ben La Hue, Emil Mosher, Caroline Scott and Verna Asking, Stewards; Chet La Hue, Murrel Denny and Earl Burns, Trustees; Carl Ecklund, Floor Guard.

By Enoch Kittle, Chief Steward

Welcome 23 Vets

57 Richmond, Va. — Some 23 veterans have returned to work at the Southern Biscuit Co. They've found it a much better place to work in since FTA organized the plant.

Newly-elected officers of Local 57 are: Adele Ellis, Pres.; Waverly Martin, Vice-Pres.; George Kingsley, Fin. Secy.; Elizabeth Brock, Secy.; Lottie Davis, Reporter; Robert Lodge, Sgt.-At-Arms. Shop Stewards are: Henry Norton, Callie Gregory, Annabelle Bradley, Thelma Douglas, Joe Stanley, Henry Dillard, Junius Boyd and Adele Ellis — Chief Steward.

By Lottie Davis, Reporter

Set Joint Policy

120 Akron, Ohio—At its first membership meeting in January, Local 120 installed its newly-elected officers for 1946. They are: Ed Baltzer, Pres.; Hugh Moneypenny, Vice-Pres.; Kenneth D. Loy, Secy.-Treas.; Delores Stettler, Secy.; T. H. Hayes, Chief Shop Steward; Louis Barnes, Door Guard; Albert Hinsley, J. N. Billings and John Malarik, Trustees.

A conference of Quaker Oats locals was held January 25 to 27 in St. Joseph, Mo., to form joint policies in negotiations with the Company. The locals have arranged for three such joint meetings a year. Right now, the big question is wages. Local 120's last contract with the Company provided for the reopening of wages this month.

New Contract for Quaker Oats: Members of the Local 110 Negotiating Committee and management representatives of the Quaker Oats plant in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, sign the 1946 contract. Above, left to right, are: Wally Post, Local 110 Vice-Pres.; Rita Riley, Asst. Chief Steward for Girls; plant manager Arthur Poe; Wes Kopecky, Local Pres.; Romona Tefer, Rec. Secy.; Wm. Cormack, personnel mgr. (standing); Agnes Vlcko, Chief Steward for Girls; Frank Kerres, Chief Steward for Men; and Emil Petronek, plant superintendent.

Wages were increased 10c an hour across the board, with a 5c hourly increase for second shift and 8c an hour for third shift. Other gains include six paid holidays, four hours call-in pay, 15 minutes relief in the morning with free coffee, and adequate relief in the afternoon. The new vacation schedule provides 1 week for 1 to 4 years, 2 weeks for 4 to 20 years, and 3 weeks for 20 years or more. Employees who quit the plant after giving five days' notice are entitled to their share of the wage bonus provided in the contract. The contract also contains a 90-day wage reopening clause.

By Agnes Dvorak, Reporter

Local 22 Increases Aid To Am. Tobacco Strike

By Lucy Mae Peoples, Reporter

Winston-Salem, N. C.—Local 22's delegates to the recent Tri-State Council meeting returned with a determination to back to the limit the strike of the American Tobacco workers. They had heard reports from the Charleston delegates of the fight the workers there are putting up for a decent standard of living.

Two days after the Council meeting, Local 22 had set up a strike committee headed by John Minor and Evender Rogers which laid plans to win community support for the fund raising campaign, a clothing and food collection, and a campaign among the membership for funds.

The local Executive Board, at a special meeting the following Saturday, voted to raise the Local's contribution from $200 a week to $400 a week. The slogan is "An hour's pay a week as long as it takes." Three boxes of food and clothing were sent to Charleston the same week.

Staff member, Anne Mathews, pledged $25 a month to the strikers. Estelle Barksdale contributed a new pair of shoes which she had just bought for herself. "A contribution without sacrifice is no contribution," she said.

Delegates from other FTA Tri-State locals also pledged contributions to the strike. Local 26 pledged $100 a month; Local 45, $25 a month; and Local 57, $50 a month. They also pledged to distribute boycott leaflets in their communities. Each one of the locals realizes that this strike is the first showdown in the tobacco industry, and that victory will help to break down the North-South wage differential and unfair employment practices.

An enlarged educational program was set up for the region at the Council meeting, and the delegates voted to intensify political action. Local 22 followed it up with wires to their Senators urging immediate pasage of a permanent FEPC bill and an end to filibuster.

At the recent special Executive Board meeting, Local 22 sent a resolution to the R. J. Reynolds Company urging the Company to consider the Union's Share-the-Work plan in order to stop laying off workers. Recent lay-offs have resulted from the installation of new machinery in the plant, and the Union's proposals would shorten hours, improve working conditions and maintain take-home pay without firing workers.

Support GI Demands To Get Home

Winston-Salem, N. C.—Full support to the GIs' demands for speedy demobilization was demonstrated by Local 22 in a resolution which was adopted and sent to Pres. Truman, the War Dept., "Stars and Stripes," Winston-Salem newspapers, General Eisenhower and the CIO news.

"We back up the demands of the GIs all over the world that demobilization be speeded up," read the resolution. "The excuse that we lack the necessary ships has been proven invalid, and the argument of 'military necessity' is used to hoodwink the public.

"We demand that the spirit of the Atlantic Charter be lived up to and that the peoples of the Philippines, China, Indonesia and other countries be permitted to solve their own problems."

Further action on this issue will be taken up at a weekend veterans conference which is scheduled to be held here shortly. Local 22's Executive Board pledged to send Local 15 the money necessary to send two delegates to the conference.

Protests Aid To Mexican Fascists

By Helga Weigert, Bus. Agt.

San Diego, Calif.—Alarmed by reports from Mexico that smuggled American arms and ammunition had been used in the murder of 25 trade unionists by Mexican Fascists, Local 64 sent a strong letter of protest to Pres. Truman and the U. S. State Dept.

The murder took place during a riot in Leon, Mexico, when Sinarchists (Mexican Fascists) tried to prevent inauguration of Mayor Dr. Ignacio Quires. Local 64's letter demanded a halt to arms smuggling across the border. The murdered workers were members of the Confederation of Latin American Workers, a labor organization similar to the CIO.

Write Truman

In the letter to Pres. Truman, Local 64 said, "The members of our union, a majority of whom are of Mexican descent, expressed their disturbance at these developments . . .

"We have just concluded, at the greatest sacrifice, a bloody struggle against fascism. It is not conducive to a truly good neighbor policy to find American arms involved in helping to foment Fascist uprisings within the borders of our friendly democratic neighbor . . .

"We urge you to make a most aggressive investigation of the American groups involved in this incident, and to take every measure necessary to expose and punish them . . ."

Political Action

PAC activities for 1946 were started in Local 64 with a visit to Republican Assemblywoman Kathryn T. Niehouse where they won her support for a State FEPC. The delegation also requested support for the Low Level Highway from San Diego to Imperial Valley as the most important Public Works project to provide jobs for the people of San Diego.

The employment of Negro workers at the Van Camp Seafood plant has set a new precedent in the fish canneries here. Local 64 members are proud of this accomplishment which came as a result of the no-discrimination clause in their contract.

The Local is represented on the San Diego FEPC Committee which is aiming to establish a city FEPC ordinance. Other city activities in which Local 64 is active are the San Diego Mobilization for Democracy to combat Gerald L. K. Smith, and a city legislative conference which is preparing a program for the special session of the California Legislature.

Petition For Election At P. Lorillard Cigar Plant

By Miriam Cliff, Pres., Local 638

Lancaster, Pa.—Local 638 is requesting NLRB certification as bargaining agent for the workers of P. Lorillard Company at a hearing scheduled here for January 24. FTA is challenging the AFL Cigarmakers Union's prior certification on the grounds that the AFL never fulfilled its obligations to the workers and no longer represents them. FTA represents 85% of the workers in the plant.

Although it held certification for the Lorillard employees since 1937, the AFL union never bargained for the workers or even signed a contract for them. The workers got fed up after 9 years of such a dirty deal and began to join the CIO.

Recently the growth in FTA membership at the plant took a surge forward when the management tried to put over a wage cut. In order to fight the cut, the girls went out with membership cards and signed up a majority of the workers in the Union.

Democracy in Action: These Japanese-American women are shown being initiated into Local 64 at the Local's Christmas party where they were guests of honor. The oath, which they are repeating, carries the true meaning of democracy in the phrase: "never to discriminate against a fellow worker because of creed, color, nationality, religious or political belief." The new Nisei members of Local 64 all have recently returned from Poston, Ariz., where they have been interned for the past three years during the war. Their ancestors were Japanese. They are Americans.

One of the women brought her Purple Heart hero-son to the initiation ceremony. Other members are still awaiting the homecoming of their sons from battle service in Europe and the Far East.

From the South African Food and Canning Workers Union came the greeting card (above) addressed to the officers and members of FTA. FTA members can return the greetings in the form of food and funds for relief of 4 million Africans facing starvation. This campaign for South African Relief is being sponsored by the Council on African Affairs, 23 W. 26th St., New York City, to which contributions should be sent.

At a huge rally on January 7, Paul Robeson, Chairman of the Council, opened the relief campaign. Robeson described the severe oppression suffered by the native South Africans under the imperialist rule of European countries. The security and peace of the world, Robeson declared, are seriously threatened today by the efforts to maintain this stranglehold on millions of exploited peoples.

Resolutions were adopted by the meeting, calling upon the South African Government and the United Nations Organization to end the oppressive discrimination practiced by the South African government against its native population.

Across-the-Ocean Letters:

A Tobacco Worker Writes:

EACH letter exchanged between a member of FTA and a member of the NUDAW (National Union of Distributive and Allied Workers) in England strengthens the bonds of friendship between the two sister unions. The following letters continue the across-the-ocean friendship begun by members of the two unions:

From Ivy Proctor, NUDAW member in Herts, England:

Dear Sirs:

Having seen a request in the "New Dawn" (NUDAW magazine) for correspondents to the FTA, I would like to correspond with an American colleague.

I have been a member of the NUDAW for many years. I've been working for over 20 years, so would prefer to correspond with someone with the same length of working experience.

Answered by Miriam Cliff, President, FTA Local 638, Lancaster, Pa.:

Dear Sister:

Your letter addressed to FTA NEWS has been forwarded to me and I am delighted to have the opp rtunity of corresponding with a member of the NUDAW.

In your letter you state that you have been working for more than 20 years. I, too, have been working for some twenty years in the tobacco industry in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

Lancaster County is an agricultural section and a large quantity of the tobacco leaf is grown here, and consequently, there are many tobacco warehouses and cigar factories in and around the vicinity.

The tobacco industry has been very much of a "sweat-shop" industry in the past, but due to unionization for the past five years, we have been able to improve the conditions for the workers considerably. It was not an easy job, but determination and hard work brought results. We now enjoy paid vacations, paid holidays, prompt settlement of grievances and a union shop provision. Wage increases have been negotiated from time to time, but in view of the roll back of hours from 48 to 40 with the ending of the war, we are now campaigning for a 65c minimum wage and 25c per hour increase, on the picket lines as well as through legislation in Washington, D. C.

Our main task, beginning with the New Year, will be to rally the workers and the community behind the fight for a decent living wage and full employment for all our people, in order to prevent unemployment and build security for our country.

Since I am not familiar with the work you and your union are doing, I will be very glad to hear from you in the near future and learn something about your problems and your experience in the trade union movement in England.

Labor Takes First Place In USSR, Krzycki Says

By Wireless to Allied Labor News

Moscow, USSR—Summing up his impressions of the Soviet Union after the first three weeks of his stay, Leo Krzycki, Vice-President of the CIO Amalgamated Clothing Workers, told Soviet press correspondents here recently that "everywhere I find that labor receives first consideration."

Krzycki, who is also president of the Polish-American Labor Council and chairman of the American Slav Congress, said:

"As I see it, the Soviet rests on four pillars—1) labor; 2) care of motherhood and the bringing up of children; 3) culture, which young and old, regardless of what they do for a living, are all assiduously striving to bring into their lives; 4) a deep-rooted and wholehearted desire for peace."

Serious Work

Discussing the plenary session of the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions, which he addressed, the CIO leader declared that in his 47 years in the labor movement, during which time he attended conventions in many places, he has seldom seen such beautiful surroundings as in the Hall of Columns of the Soviet trade unions.

At the session itself, he declared, "every delegate called upon to report took his job seriously and, unlike my experience elsewhere, I heard no boasting or bragging, but everyone advanced criticism and demands for more and for better."

Krzycki noted that "this will perhaps surprise some Americans who still believe that lips are padlocked here, but it is a fact. It was a well-disciplined gathering, with a larger percentage of women than usually attend such conferences in other countries. The general atmosphere suggested democracy."

From his visits to Soviet factories, he was particularly struck by the major part women play in production and management, he said, adding that they do their job well.

No Speed-up

"I noticed the absence of speed-up," the U. S. labor leader stated. "Everybody worked, but naturally. In the Kirov Plant, as well as in other plants I visited, I saw prominently displayed boxes in which the workers deposited their written suggestions, questions and criticism of the administration. In every shop, bulletins are posted on boards with numerous suggestions to management for improvement."

His most outstanding impression, Krzycki asserted, "is that of a peace-loving people. After having gone through five years of this hell and having suffered such losses, the Soviet people are willing to go far out of their way to join other nations in guaranteeing peace and security in the world.

Debt to Humanity

"Because of the way America and the Soviet Union worked together during the war, because America has become the foremost industrial power of the world and because of the outstanding contribution the Soviet Union has made to victory, I believe these two nations are the most logical to cooperate in the interests of peace. They owe it to humanity as a whole to get closer together, cement their relationships, grasp each others hands and announce to the world a message of 'peace on earth, good will to all.'"

Role of WFTU

The CIO leader, who attended the Paris world labor conference, declared that the World Federation of Trade Unions "will play an important part and prove to be a big factor in maintaining peace and guaranteeing security against war and aggression. Its creation is a source of encouragement to all workingmen and women—to all genuine democrats and to every freedom-loving people."

Krzycki has visited Leningrad and Stalingrad—where he witnessed the extent of destruction by the Nazis—Moscow, the Leningrad suburb Pushkin and several other cities. He went to factories and cultural institutions in all and, together with General Gundarov, chairman of the All-Slav Anti-Fascist Committee of the Soviet Union, addressed a delegation of American youth now visiting here.

THERE'S STILL A WAR ON!

"These prisoners represent sinister influences that will lurk in the world long after their bodies have returned to dust."
(Justice Robert H. Jackson at the War-Crimes Trials)

World Labor

London: The World Federation of Trade Unions, representing some 60 million organized workers, was again denied representation in the United Nations Organization by the UNO Steering Committee now in session here.

This second denial last year, when the UNO was first formed, came when a motion for a WFTU place in the UNO General Assembly was put aside. The motion was presented by D. Z. Manuilsky, Ukrainian delegate to the UNO, with support from USSR Delegate Vasaili Kuznetsov, who heads the Soviet Central Council of Trade Unions. France is also supporting the WFTU's bid for representation.

Kuznetsov and Leon Jouhaux, co-secretary of the French General Confederation of Labor, were both present at the UNO meeting, seeking a voice for WFTU members in the world peace organization.

The denial came in a refusal by the Steering Committee of the UNO General Assembly to allow a spokesman of the WFTU to speak directly on admission to the Assembly. According to newspaper reports, the Assembly has appointed a subcommittee to look into the question.

Appeal for U. S. support of WFTU representation on UNO was sent to the U. S. delegation from the Committee for AFL Participation in the WFTU, which is composed of 500 AFL officials.

"American labor is vitally interested in assuring international cooperation for world security and wellbeing," the message read. "WFTU representation on the UNO will go far to speed and help achieve the attainment of these objectives."

This issue was originally raised at San Francisco last year by CIO Pres. Philip Murray who was opposed then by government delegates of Britain, Canada, and the United States.

China: Chiang Kai-shek's unconditional truce with the Communist forces and his accompanying pledge to allow free speech, legalize all political parties, release political prisoners and hold democratic elections, was an important victory for the people of China, according to Israel Epstein, Allied Labor News far eastern expert.

U. S. envoy George C. Marshall's stand on behalf of the truce was the first American departure from all-out support of Chiang's Kuomintang since 1944, Epstein said. Chiang's prompt action shows how much Chinese reactionaries had been depending on U. S. support for carrying out their schemes.

However, Epstein warned, the danger of renewed civil war remains so long as Americans continue to remain in China. The speed with which the Japanese and pro-Japanese forces are liquidated will be the test of whether the truce will last.

Don't Buy
Lucky Strike
Pall Mall

On Strike

1,750,000 STRIKE FOR HIGHER WAGES

Steel:

"Steelworkers are idle today and will continue to be idle until industry accepts the President's proposal for an 18½c hourly increase," said Pres. Philip Murray, following U. S. Steel's refusal of Pres. Truman's compromise offer. Murray echoed the sentiments of the nation's 750,000 steelworkers now on strike in some 1,300 plants.

Despite the fact that steel wages have been slashed by $12.48 since V-E Day, the workers were willing to come down to the 18½c from their original 25c an hour proposed by Truman. However, Benjamin Fairless, head of U. S. Steel, gave a flat rejection to the proposal. The Company is using government tax refunds to sit out the strike.

The steel strike, the biggest one in the nation's history, is receiving wide support from other unions, community organizations and small businessmen.

Auto:

Heading into the 11th week of their strike at the General Motors plants, 200,000 members of the United Auto Workers have demonstrated their determination to win. Hour after hour solid and orderly picket lines wind around the GM plant gates. Veterans are everywhere in evidence wearing parts of their GI uniforms. They carry slogans, such as: "Our buddies gave their lives, what did GM give?"

GM, controlled by the powerful duPont family, can well afford to pay the increase UAW is demanding. The Company will save enough from the repeal of the excess profits tax to give the workers a 29% increase without touching profits. GM officials refused to open its books to the President's fact-finding committee. They prefer, instead, to spend millions of dollars in advertising to the public how ill it can afford a wage increase.

Electric:

Some 200,000 UE members are on strike at the Big Three electrical plants — General Electric Westinghouse and General Motors electrical division. Though the union is demanding a $2-a-day increase, it offered to accept 15½c an hour now and negotiate the rest of the 25c an hour later. The only answer they got was an offer to increase working hours.

Over a hundred policemen armed with tear gas and clubs charged into the picketline around the U. S. Motors, Inc. plant in Los Angeles on Jan. 17. They injured more than a score of workers and arrested 25, including 5 women, on charges of rioting. The police violence was condemned by the California CIO Council.

Meat Packing:

Although President Truman threatened government seizure of packinghouses struck by 238,000 CIO and AFL packinghouse workers, the industry refused to comply with the wage demands of the workers.

Negro and white workers, AFL and CIO, stuck side by side determined to hold out for wage increases without price increases. Government seizure may force the workers back into the plants, but the CIO is demanding that the government settle the wage issue first.

Packinghouse workers have had no increase since before Pearl Harbor, although combined profits of the four biggest companies rose 270% over their 1940 profits. The Big Four companies are trying to use the workers' wage demands to break price ceilings on meat.

Farm Equipment:

Out in the midwest, 30,000 farm equipment workers are on strike against 11 International Harvester plants for a 30% increase and a master contract. They are battling against the powerful McCormick family of Chicago who control 65% of the farm equipment industry.

Col. Robert R. McCormick, reactionary owner of the infamous Chicago Tribune, saw a jump in Harvester profits of 300% during the war. Workers' wage increases were frozen at 15% during that time.

Western Union:

New York City is turning out solid in support of the 7,000-strong CIO workers at the Western Union Telegraph Company. Recently farmers from up-state New York visited the picket line with truckloads of food and produce from their farms. Signs on the trucks bore messages of farmer-labor unity.

CIO-AFL Unity:

The most outstanding expression of trade union solidarity was displayed early in January when all CIO and AFL unions walked out in sympathy with 3,000 AFL workers on strike at the Yale and Towne Lock Co. in Stamford, Conn.

All industry and most business in this city of 65,000 was closed down as a result of the walkout of the entire organized labor movement. The nation's first city-wide work stoppage since 1934 was solidly backed by the townspeople.

Watch That Boat! From 1924 to 1929 wages rose only 5%, while profits rose 72%. This uncontrolled swelling of profits without corresponding wage raises upset the boat of economic stability and brought about the devastating depression of the 30's. We can't let it happen again

(From CIO News.)

This Is A Struggle Which Must Be Won

AMERICAN workers are today engaged in the greatest wage struggle in the history of our nation. The CIO's fight for decent wage standards is not the fight of CIO members alone. The outcome will effect every worker in the country.

And not only that. Higher standards of living for industrial workers will bring higher incomes to farmers, storekeepers and professional people. Higher wages will bring about great employment, greater production.

The CIO is fighting for the welfare of the American people. Unless higher wages are won, we will face widespread unemployment and poverty.

A handful of large corporations, controlling a major part of America's industry and wealth, have rejected the CIO's urgent and necessary demands. They want to keep wages down. But more than that, they want to strangle the labor movement and wipe out and the social and legislative gains that labor has made in recent years.

Wherever a union is fighting for higher pay, FTA members will stand by to help win their struggle. Because today labor—and all the people—must win this fight.

Steelworkers Walk Out: It takes more than snow to dampen the confidence of these steelworkers, warming up over the fire outside the gates of the giant Irvin works of Carnegie-Illinois Steel Corp. in Pittsburgh. They're part of 750,000 members of the CIO United Steelworkers of America, who struck when the steel industry turned down Pres. Truman's recommendation for a 18½c hourly wage increase. The Union had agreed to accept the offer.

(Federated Pictures.)

Giant Tax Swindle Pays For Industry Sit-Down

Pittsburgh, Pa.—President Philip Murray of the CIO United Steelworkers issued a call on Jan. 22 for immediate action to end a giant swindle of the American people. Through the Revenue Act of 1942, Murray charged, big business is guaranteed as much as $20 billion in the next two years, while it goes on a union-busting spree.

Addressing his demand to Secy. of the Treasury Fred Vinson and Congressional leaders, the CIO president told newsmen in the national headquarters of the steel union here that the people had never been properly informed about what he called "industry's strike benefit law," which was passed by Congress without discussion either in committee reports or on the floor of the legislature.

Under tax rebate and guarantee-against-loss provisions of the act, the steel industry could loaf all through 1946, not make any net profits—and receive $149 million from the U. S. Treasury. "This represents guaranteed profits that are 29% above the level of prewar earnings," Murray said.

Govt. Pads Profits

Under this provision, U. S. Steel Corp. will be repaid $67,340,000, although its average net profits after taxes for the prewar era were $44,732,000; Bethlehem Steel will get $17,563,000 from the government as compared to its prewar profits of $13,879,000; Republic Steel will get $6,370,000 against $5,339,000 in prewar profits; and Jones & Laughlin will get $6,028,750 as compared to the $2,375,000 it made in the prewar period.

Most brazen extortion of the government and the people has come through another part of the law which allows facilities constructed during the war to be amortized over a 5-year period rather than the customary 20 years, Murray said.

Murray denounced Congress for according big business such "vicious" special privileges, while at the same time it wrote a provision into the GI bill of rights barring veterans on strike from collecting unemployment compensation and ignored the needs of the workers.

He quoted an article in the Catholic Digest which pointed out that if Congress had passed protective legislation for "Joe Workman" comparable to that it passed for business, the average worker would receive from the government about $18,000. Instead the worker has average savings of about $300 to tide him through the lean strike days provoked by big business.

CIO on the Air

Are you listening? The CIO is on the air every Saturday afternoon in two vital radio programs.

"Cross-Section — CIO" features on-the-spot interviews with CIO members, at 3:45 p.m., EST, on the Columbia Broadcasting System.

"Labor—USA" is a dramatic program about CIO policy and current news, at 6:45 p.m., EST, on the American Broadcasting Company network.

Vets Place Ad In Press Through CIO

Washington, D.C.—Just as labor supported our armed forces in the fight against fascism, it now comes to the support of the thousands of GI's all over the world who are protesting the slow-down in demobilization.

Confident of CIO support, 10,000 enlisted men and officers stationed in the Philippines collected and sent $5,000 to the CIO, requesting that the money be used to run ads in newspapers protesting the demobilization slowdown. The ads appeared on January 20 in 16 newspapers throughout the nation.

Clinton S. Golden, Chairman of the CIO Veterans Committee, said the contributions were made voluntarily by the officers and men of Sub Base R, Batangas, Philippines, in order to get public support for their plea against the slow-down, maintenance of troops in non-hostile areas like the Philippines, and the return of empty ships to the U.S.

Confidence In CIO

"We are gratified that these soldiers half-way across the world have so much confidence in the CIO they entrusted us with the project and the money," said Golden. "It indicates a friendliness of troops and understanding that the CIO is concerned with their interest while in service and when they get home."

The ads asked the public to send letters to Congressmen demanding "immediate action on the clarification and speed-up of demobilization," and transfer of demobilization from "the vested interests of the War Dept. to a Congressional committee."

Be Sure Your Vets Get Their FTA News

DURING the war most FTA locals looked after their members in the armed forces, sent them letters and saw to it that they got their copies of FTA NEWS regularly. Many of these brothers and sisters are now home. But your job hasn't ended.

Help the FTA vets become informed Union members. See to it that they still get their Union paper. There's only one way to do it. Send the name and address of every returned veteran in your Local to FTA NEWS.

UNION MEN IN UNIFORM

FTA Welcomes Vets: At a dinner in Camden, N.J. on Friday, January 4, FTA welcomed three former International Representatives — Ed McCrea, Johnny Tisa and Bill Haber. The dinner (above) was attended by Pres. Donald Henderson, Int. Secy.-Treas. Harold J. Lane, Int. Vice-Pres. Lew Bentzley, FTA's new Research Director Joe Califf and representatives of the Pennsylvania and New Jersey locals. Tisa, who played a large part in organizing Local 80, was appointed International Director of Organization at the recent Board meeting following his discharge from the Army. McCrea was just discharged after 28 months in the Navy and is now representing FTA in Cambridge, Md. Haber, who formerly worked for FTA in the South, expects a discharge shortly.

Let's Make Our Country A Really Democratic One, Urges Negro Vet

Harviell, Mo.—*"Is America really a democracy?" asks Sgt. James Whitfield in the following letter to the News. Whitfield is the son of Int. Vice-Pres. Owen Whitfield and Zella Whitfield, Treasurer of Local 349.*

I am just one of the millions of GI's who has returned from the Southwest Pacific Theatre—a land of Japs, jungles, mosquitoes and hell. Many nights I lay awake thinking of the folks back home and wondering would America be changed.

Many times I was asked by other Allied soldiers, "How are the colored people treated in America?" I would tell them "America is a democratic nation; we all are treated as equals." But deep down in my heart I knew I was lying.

We as Negro soldiers gave all we had, never thinking of racial prejudice or Jim Crow or Bilbo. I served overseas with a crack outfit—the 869th Engineer Aviation Batallion which was with the Sixth Army all the way from Australia, through New Guinea and the Philippines. Sometimes we worked 16 and 18 hours a day. Often I was called from sleep after working 16 hours to take over because another man was knocked out from exhaustion.

After the Philippines were liberated, we took off for Japan. Luckily for us, Japan surrendered and the invasion was cancelled. Imagine my elation when I was told I had enough points to go home . . .

I was discharged at Jefferson Barracks, Mo.—a free man again—to do what I wanted and go where I pleased. But that pleasure was short lived. On my way from St. Louis to Poplar Bluff, Mo., to visit my mother, I stopped at a bus station for lunch. Upon my request for a sandwich, I was told to "go in the kitchen because we don't serve colored in here." Then and there, all my hopes and happiness died. America had not changed. Race hatred still existed.

Sometimes I wonder will she ever change. I believe she will. But we Americans, regardless of race, creed or color, who have the ability to look into the future to avert a war, must put forth all our efforts to make our country a democratic one.

JAMES WHITFIELD

FTA Backs GI Demands To Go Home

San Francisco, Calif.—"Ten million American veterans cannot be wrong," Donald Henderson, FTA president, said in wires to President Truman and Secretary of War Patterson. The telegrams sent on behalf of the FTA executive board, which met here Jan. 7 to 12, expressed the Union's support to the American troops demonstrating against the demobilization snafu in Guam, Manila and Germany. Similar cablegrams were sent to T/4 Harold Shiffrin, leader of the veterans' demonstration in Manila this week, and to the American Veterans Committee in Guam.

"A mass protest in Guam, the Philippines and Germany must prove to you the incorrectness of folowing a policy of policing China and other places and must convince you that all troops should be evacuated excepting that minimum required for Germany and Japan," the telegram to Truman stated.

Supports Protests

"Our International Executive Board now in session in San Francisco supports fully the protest of the veterans abroad and at home and urges that immediate complete evacuation be carried out and the boys be brought home."

The cablegram to Sgt. Shiffrin attacked the "inexcusable blundering" that has been committed against the bottlenecked troops. "We feel you boys fought and won the war against Japan and Germany and should be brought home immediately," Henderson cabled.

GI Demonstrations

In Yokohama American soldiers issued a call for a huge mass meeting—"as important as the one in Manila," scene of the first protest demonstration—in Frankfurt, Germany, 5,000 soldiers marched on army headquarters shouting: "We want to go home," in Paris more than 1,000 GIs paraded through the streets in a similar demonstration, and a protest meeting of GIs was to be held in Calcutta, India.

A rally in Honolulu Jan. 8, the second in 12 hours, heard Sgt. David Livingston, a vice president of Local 65, Wholesale & Warehouse Workers Union (CIO), call for a continued "pressure against the War Dept. and all those in Washington who have broken their promises."

THE Story of Labor
THE FAILURE OF THE MINE AND RAILROAD STRIKES PROVED TO AMERICAN WORKERS THAT THEY NEEDED A NATIONAL ORGANIZATION. THE KNIGHTS OF LABOR TRIED TO FILL THE BILL. STARTING AS A SECRET SOCIETY, WITH FANCY OATHS AND RITUAL, THEY DREW WORKERS FROM THE REGULAR UNIONS UNTIL, IN 1886, THEY HAD 729,677 MEMBERS.
THE "KNIGHTS" WERE A DIFFERENT KIND OF UNION. THEY INCLUDED ALL WORKERS REGARDLESS OF TRADE, RELIGION, NATIONALITY OR RACE. BUT THEIR LEADER, T.V. POWDERLY, WAS MORE INTERESTED IN TEMPERANCE AND LAND REFORM THAN IN UNION TACTICS. WHEN THE KNIGHTS DID STRIKE, IT WAS AGAINST HIS ORDERS. THE TRADE UNIONS BEGAN TO FIGHT BACK...
JOE WORKER
THE KNIGHTS OF LABOR SWORE MEMBERS TO COMPLETE SECRECY. EVEN THE NAME WAS SECRET....
DO YOU SWEAR BY DREAD ADELPHON KRYPTON NEVER TO REVEAL THE NAME OF THIS ORDER, ITS SIGNS, MYSTERIES, UNTIL DEATH?
THIS SOUNDS SILLY; BUT IF IT HELPS LABOR...!
I...I DO!
AFTER THE INITIATION....
HOLY CATS! MY OLD RAILROAD UNION NEVER HAD NUTHIN' LIKE THIS! WHAT'S ADELPHON KRYPTON MEAN?
IT'S GREEK AND MEANS SECRET WORK!
NO UNION EVER 'LOWED ME IN BEFORE, SO I DUNNO WHAT THEY DONE; BUT I THINK DE KNIGHTS O' LABOR GRAND!
SSH! YOU SAID THE SECRET NAME!
JIM'S RIGHT! HERE, FOR THE FIRST TIME, WE WORKERS CAN JOIN A SINGLE UNION... PROTESTANT, CATHOLIC, JEW... WHITE, NEGRO! IF WE WORK TOGETHER, WE CAN BE IN A UNION TOGETHER!
BUT POWDERLY WAS ALTOGETHER INTERESTED IN TEMPERANCE, WHEN WAGES WERE CUT, HE SPOKE OF CONFERENCES
YOU SHOULDN'T 'VE LOCKED OUT THE KNIGHTS ON YOUR RAILROADS, MR. GOULD! LET'S TALK IT OVER!
I REFUSE TO DISCUSS MY BUSINESS WITH YOU, MR. POWDERLY!
WAIT'LL THE BOYS HEAR OF THIS!
THE BOYS HEARD AND THEY STARTED A STRIKE THAT SWEPT THE COUNTRY. JAY GOULD BROUGHT JAY GOULD TO HIS KNEES
SIGN HERE, MR. GOULD. YOU AGREE TO RECOGNIZE THE KNIGHTS, TO TAKE US BACK, TO INCREASE WAGES!
YOU LICKED ME THIS TIME; BUT JUST WAIT!
IF ONLY WE ACTED LIKE BROTHERS WE WOULDN'T HAVE TO STRIKE!
YOU HEARD WHAT MR. GOULD SAID! WE DON'T INTEND TO WAIT. MAYBE I'D BETTER TRY ANOTHER UNION. I'VE HEARD OF A SAMUEL GOMPERS!
THAT FELLOW! WHAT'LL HAPPEN TO MY ADELPHON KRYPTON?